### THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

### SAINT LOUIS

### MERCANTILE LIBRARY

ASSOCIATION.

ST. LOUIS:
PRINTED FOR THE ASSOCIATION BY G. I. JONES & COMPANY.
1877.



### OFFICERS

OF THE

### MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

### FOR THE YEAR 1877.

PRESIDENT:

EDWIN HARRISON.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

R. R. HUTCHINSON.

SECRETARIES:

Corresponding,

J. C. EWALD.

Recording,

W. L. SCOTT.

TREASURER:

J. H. McCLUNEY.

DIRECTORS:

W. H. PULSIFER,

C. W. BARSTOW,

J. A. WHERRY,

J. J. CANTWELL,

J. W. DONALDSON,

J. R. TRIPLETT,

E. C. ROBBINS.

ACTUARY AND LIBRARIAN:

JOHN N. DYER.

ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS:

First.

Second,

W. H. H. ANDERSON.

I. A. YEATMAN.

Third,

DAVID BALL.

JANITOR:

SAMUEL CLEGG.

### COMMITTEES FOR 1877.

### WAYS AND MEANS:

R. R. HUTCHINSON, W. H. PULSIFER, J. J. CANTWELL.

### LIBRARY AND READING-ROOM:

J. A. WHERRY, J. W. DONALDSON, C. W. BARSTOW.

### BOOKS AND DONATIONS:

W. H. PULSIFER, J. H. McCLUNEY, J. A. WHERRY, W. L. SCOTT,

J. R. TRIPLETT.

LECTURES:

W. L. SCOTT, J. C. EWALD, E. C. ROBBINS.

### HALL AND BUILDING:

EDWIN HARRISON, R. R. HUTCHINSON, J. H. McCLUNEY.

### PRESIDENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

### FROM ITS ORGANIZATION.

1846-7,		-		_		-				-	JAMES E. YEATMAN.
1848–9,	-		-		-		-		-		Alfred Vinton.
1850-1,		-		-		-		-		-	H. E. Bridge.
1852,	-		-		-		-		-		HENRY D. BACON.
1853, -		-		-		-		-		-	J. H. Alexander.
1854-5,	-		-		-		-		-		J. T. Douglass.
1856, -		-		-		-		-		-	W. M. Morrison.
1857,	-		-		-		-		-		John W. Luke.
1858, -		_		-		-		-		-	M. V. L. McClelland.
1859–60,	-		-		-		-		-		J. B. S. Lemoine.
1861, -		-		-				-		-	Alfred Carr.
1862-3,	-		-		-		-		-		Јони Н. Веасн.
1864-5,		-		-		-		-		-	CHARLES MILLER.
1866–7,	-		-		-		-		-		George R. Robinson.
1868–9,		-		-		-		-		-	LAFAYETTE WILSON.
1870-1,	-		-		-		-		-		RICHARD M. SCRUGGS.
1872-3,		-		-		-		-		-	CHARLES SPECK.
1874-5,	-		-		-		-		-		Samuel M. Dodd.
1876-7		_		_		_		_		_	EDWIN HARRISON

YEAR.	PRESIDENT.	VICE-PRESIDENT.	TREASURER.	REC. SECRETARY.	COR. STR
1846	Jas. E. Yeatman	L. M. Kennett	R. K. Woods	J. A. Dougherty	S. A. Rile
1847	Jas. E. Yeatman	Alfred Vinton	R. M. Renick	R. W. Ayers	S. A. Rite
1848	Alfred Vinton	W. M. Morrison	William H. Rice	John Halsall	R. M. R ic
1849	Alfred Vinton	H. E. Bridge	William H. Rice	W. P. Cowles	Edmund a
1850	II. E. Bridge	Edmund Bacon	S. C. Stewart	C. R. Stinde	G. R. Rein
1851	H. E. Bridge	C. R. Stinde J. II. Alexander*	J. Wilmer Stith	J. A. Allen	G. R. Reins
1852	Henry D. Bacon	J. II. Alexander	J. Wilmer Stith	Theo. Clark	M. V. L. co
1853	J. H. Alexander	J. T. Douglass	W. E. Sell	A. Pearce	M. V. L. co
1854	J. T. Douglass	R. M. Renick	Thomas Brown	Jas. R. Larkin	W. H. Cm
1855	J. T. Douglass	M. V. L. McClelland	Thomas Brown	C. L. Rogers	J. D. St in
1856	W. M. Morrison	Alexis Mudd John W. Luke*	Edward P. Curtis	J. D. Taylor	J. D. Steins. Geo. R. ol
1857	John W. Luke		Edward P. Curtis	L. C. Billon	J. Wilm S.
1858	M. V. L. McClelland.	J. B. S. Lemoine	Geo. H. Loker	C. W. Marsh	G. R. Waca
1859	J. B. S. Lemoine	R. II. Davis	Samuel Copp, Jr	John W. Clark	Alfred Cr.
1860	J. B. S Lemoine	R. II. Davis	S. H. Laffin	Archie Robinson	Alfred Cr
1861	Alfred Carr	C. W. Marsh	B. M. Runyan	Archie Robinson	Charles II
1862	John II. Beach	Charles Miller	John E. Yore	H. C. Marston	C. L. Thin
1863	John II. Beach	Charles Miller	John E. Yore	J. G. Catlin	C. L. Thu
1864	Charles Miller	Henry Senter	John E. Yore	J. G. Catlin	L. Wilse
1865	Charles Miller	Henry Senter	John E. Yore	W. A. Kingdon C. R. Goodin*	L. Wilsc
1866	Geo. R. Robinson	L. Wilson	W. H. Thomson	C. R. Goodin	T. G. Rile M. N. Buth
1867	Geo. R. Robinson	L. Wilson	W. H. Thomson	John H. Tracy	M. N. Bulh
1868	Lafayette Wilson	S. M. Dodd	II. H. Wernse	John H. Tracy	A. P. Segn
1869	Lafayette Wilson	S. M. Dodd	H. H. Wernse	John H. Tracy	A. P. Sagra,
1870	R. M. Scrnggs	Charles Speck	II. II. Wernse	John H. Tracy	M. N. Bush
1871	R. M. Scruggs	Charles Speck	II. II. Wernse	John H. Tracy	M. N. Bush
1872	Charles Speck	James P. Fiske	R. R. Hutchinson	John H. Tracy	Joseph I in
1873	Charles Speck	James P. Fiske† S. M. Dodd*	R. R. Hutchinson	John H. Tracy G. W. Ware*	Joseph 1
1874	Samuel M. Dodd	W. M. Smith	R. R. Hutchinson	G. W. Ware	M. S. Wiso
1875	Samuel M. Dodd	W. M. Smith Edwin Harrison	R. R. Hutchinson	G. W. Ware W. L. Scott*	M. S. W. 30
1876	Edwin Harrison	R. R. Hutchinson	J. H. McCluney	W. L. Scott	J. C. Evic

### DIRECTION.

1		
TARY.	DIRECTORS.	LIBRARIAN.
	John C. Tevis, W. M. Morrison, Peter Powell, George K. Budd, Alex. Peterson, Robert Barth, Joseph F. Franklin.	Josiah Dent.
	John H Simpson, Wm. M. Morrison, R. D. Van Nostrand, C. Enness, John Keyes, John Halsall, F. Elliott, Jr., J. C. Cabot.*	William Allen.
	A. Osgood, R. M. V. Kercheval, G. R. Robinson, J. Morrisse, S. N. Kellogg, J. T. Chappell, O. W. Child.	William P. Curtis
n	L. C. Clark, R. M. V. Kercheval, C. Haywood, R. C. McAllister, John Sharp, C. B. Burnham, C. R. Stinde.	William P. Curtis
on	R. H. Davis, R. D. Van Nostrand, J. A. Allen, R. C. McAllister, J. Tilden, Jere C. Reynolds, C. Haywood.	William P. Curtis
on	J. H. Alexander, R. C. McAllister, J. H. Avery, C. G. Helfenstein, J. Tilden, R. N. Nisbet, * R. D. Van Nostrand, J. T. Douglass, * M. V. L. McClelland.	William P. Curtis
lelland	J. T. Douglass, J. O'Neil, C. E. King, W. E. Sell, J. H. Avery, C. Enslin, Solon Humphreys, H. W. Birge.*	William P. Curtis
lelland	Solon Humphreys, R. D. Van Nostrand, J. J. Cartledge, John Goodin, C. E.	William P. Curtis
n	King, W. H. Gilman, H. W. Birge.  John Goodin, A. Pearce, J. S. Carriedge, J. Smith, Jr., G. P. Doan, R. B.  Whittamer H. W. Birge, C. M. McClung *	William P. Curtis
us	Whittemore, H. W. Birge, C. M. McClung.*  J. H. Larkin, G. P. Doan, J. Smith, Jr., C. M. McClung, G. Collier, A. M. Waterman, J. H. McCulloch.	William P. Curtis.
ເຮ nson*	L. H. Terry, J. O. Alter, J. W. Stith, C. E. King, J. W. Luke, A. H. Smith, G. R. Baker, W. D. W. Barnard, J. B. S. Lemoine.*	William P. Curtis
ith	J. B. S. Lemoine, J. D. Taylor, J. Christopher, W. F. Ræver, A. H. Smith, C. F. Vanderford, Aug. Knight, S. R. Clark, * A. O. Grubb. *	William P. Curtis.
	J. Christopher, J. A. Brownlee, R. H. Davis, F. R. Alexander, S. R. Clark, Sol. Scott, Jr., G. W. Tracy, L. Kingsland.*	William P. Curtis
•••••	Calvln W. Marsh, John H. Siegrist, Sol. Scott, Jr., I. V. W. Dutcher, F. R. Alexander, W. C. Buchanan, L. Kingsland.	Ed. W. Johnston.
	George D. Hall, John H. Siegrist, John D. Lapsley, C. W. Marsh, Colton Green, C. C. Ferguson, John H. Beach.	Ed. W. Johnston.
r	John H. Beach, George D Hall, W. A. Moffett, * J. R. Evans, Daniel Gilchrist, O. B Filley, C. W Keiser, H. C. Marston, John E. Yore.*	Ed. W. Johnston.
son	W. A. Moffett, Jas. S. Wilgus, Henry Senter, O. B. Filley, G. W. Parker, J. M. Hanson, John R. Lionberger.	John N. Dyer.
son	Henry Senter, John R. Lionberger John Whittaker, S. W. Barber, Samuel M. Dodd, * J. M. Hanson, Geo. W. Parker, O. B. Filley, John H. Siegrist. *	John N. Dyer.
•••••	John R. Lionberger, John Whittaker, Henry Senter, J. M. Hanson, S. M. Dodd, John Bogg, * Wallace Delafield, W. H. H. Pettus.	John N. Dyer.
•••••	C. R. Stinde, Edward Wilkerson, R. D. Vau Nostrand, S. M. Dodd, Wallace Delafield, W. H. H. Pettus, M. N. Burchard.	John N. Dyer,
rd*	C. R. Stinde, Ed. Wilkerson, R. D. Van Nostrand, S. M. Dodd, Theo. G. Meier, J. S. Walsh, L. Fusz, * B. W. Lewis, Jr., M. N. Burchard.	John N. Dyer.
rd	Theo. G. Meier, R. M. Scrnggs, H. T. Simon, Julius S. Walsh, R. W. Church, Jas. N. Norris, <i>Henry A. True</i> , Andrew Wilson.*	John N. Dyer.
in	R. M. Scruggs, Henry T. Simon, L. A. Moffett, R. W. Church, * J. N. Norris, C. R. Garrison, Van Leer Runyan. *	John N. Dyer.
in	R. M. Scruggs, L. A. Moffett, C. R. Garrison, James P. Fiske, Charles Speck, John S J. Miller.	John N. Dyer.
rd	J. P. Fiske, Fred. Hawes, Frank Carter, R. M. Scruggs, Charles Speck, J. S. J. Miller, Henry T. Simon, Lorraine F. Jones, * James O. Carson.*	John N. Dyer.
rd	John S. J. Miller, Henry T. Simon, Frank Carter, Walter M. Smith, A. W. Mitchell, W. S. Stewart, J. C. Ewald.	John N. Dyer.
lin	John S. J. Miller, Walter M. Smith, W. S Stewart, A. W. Mitchell, J. C. Ewald, Chas. E Barney, L. E. Alexander.	John N. Dyer.
lin	W. S. Stewart, L. E. Alexander, W. M. Samuel, P. C. Maffitt, C. E. Barney, W. H. Waters, W. B. Haseltine.	John N. Dyer.
••••••		John N. Dyer.
•	Edwin Harrison, W. H. Pulsifer, * J. B. Mande, H. S. Brown, J. H. McCluney, A. B. Cheever, J. A. Waterworth, J. A. Wherry.	John N. Dyer.
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	J. B. Mande, W. H. Pulsifer, M. S. Wasson, J. H. McCluney, J. A. Wherry, A. B. Cheever, J. W. Donaldson.	John N. Dyer.

### TABLE OF RESULTS.

GAIN,	8. 1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1	
VALUE OF PROPERTY.	\$1,954 3,463 3,463 10,249 10,249 13,606 11,158 12,118 12,118 13,196	
ENPENDI- TURES.	\$\\ \text{1.0} \\ \text{2.0} \	
RECEIPTS.	\$\\ \text{4.0689} 92 \\ \text{6.634} 96 \\ \text{6.634} 96 \\ \text{6.634} 96 \\ \text{6.634} 96 \\ \text{6.635} 96 \\ \text{6.634} 96 \\ \text{6.635} 96 \\ \text{6.635} 96 \\ \text{6.635} 97 \\ 6.	
GAIN.	Loss 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25	
VOLS. ISSUED.	200 100 100 100 100 100 100 100	139,050
GAIN.	200 100 100 100 100 100 100 100	$\frac{318}{145}$
SHIGVERS	11111111111111111111111111111111111111	6,685 6,820
GMIN.	2598 2588	1,902
vols.	1,680 6,129 1,680 1,109	43,915
GAIN.	177 188 198 198 198 198 198 198 198 198 198	$\begin{array}{c} 195 \\ 126 \end{array}$
иемвекз	283 263 270 283 270 270 270 270 270 270 270 270	4,641
XEV15.	1846 1847 1855 1855 1855 1855 1855 1855 1855 185	1875 1876

### THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

### ST. LOUIS MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,

FANUARY 9, 1877.

Rooms of Mercantile Library Association, St. Louis, Fanuary oth, 1877.

The thirty-first annual meeting of the St. Louis Mercantile Library Association was called to order by E. Harrison, Esq., President.

On motion, Mr. S. M. Dodd was nominated Chairman, and Messrs. E. C. Simmons and E. C. Robbins Secretaries of the meeting, and unanimously elected.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and, on motion, adopted.

The Committee on Ways and Means submitted the following report:

St. Louis, January 8th, 1877.

The Committee on Ways and Means beg leave to report that they have examined the books and accounts of the association, and find the same correct and properly substantiated by vouchers for all disbursements made.

R. R. HUTCHINSON, JOHN B. MAUDE, W. H. PULSIFER, Committee.

On motion, same was received and adopted.

Mr. J. H. McCluney, Treasurer of the association, submitted his report of the financial condition of the association, which, on motion of Mr. J. W. Donaldson, was accepted.

The President, Mr. E. Harrison, submitted and read the report of the Board of Directors for the year ending December 31st, 1876, giving a full statement of the receipts, disbursements, and condition of the association.

On motion of Mr. Charles Miller, the report was received and unanimously adopted.

Mr. J. H. Alexander offered the following resolution, which was, on motion, adopted:

Resolved, That the continued progress and prosperity of the Mercantile Library Association are exceedingly gratifying to its friends, and they must also be so to the President and other members of the Board of Directors who have devoted their services to its interests during the past year, and have just rendered such a favorable account of their stewardship. For their labors in its behalf they deserve, and are hereby tendered, the warmest thanks of the members of the association.

Mr. Charles Miller offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this association are due, and are hereby most gratefully tendered, to the friends of the library and other citizens who so generously loaned their valuable paintings and other works of art to the exhibition lately made under the auspices of the association.

Mr. Alfred Carr offered the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be furnished to the city papers for publication.

Resolved, That one thousand copies of the Annual Report, including the proceedings of this meeting, be printed in pamphlet for gratuitous distribution.

There being no further business, the meeting, on motion of Mr. Charles Miller, adjourned.

S. M. DODD,

Chairman.

E. C. SIMMONS, E. C. ROBBINS, Secretaries.

### TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

St. Louis, Fanuary 9th, 1877.

Gentlemen:—I have the honor to submit the following report of my receipts and disbursements during the year ending December 31st, 1876, and also showing the present financial condition of the association, viz.:

Exhibit "A"—Cash Account.

Exhibit "B"-Balance Sheet.

Exhibit "C"—Profit and Loss Account.

## EXHIBIT "A"—CASH ACCOUNT.

\$ 15 92 15	-) 6,697 4,000 1,432	$\begin{array}{c} 195\ 27\\ 2,733\ 19\\ 2,984\ 09 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 124 & 55 \\ 1,824 & 25 \\ 2,220 & 82 \\ 8,230 & 82 \end{array}$	2,550 45 8,505 40	3,452 80 865 08	$1,000\ 60$ $278\ 00$	73 75 27 00	$\frac{81}{174}$	322 08	167 50 1.676 55	1,510 25	378 49 104 00	200 00	$1,160\ 35\ 325\ 26$	527 70	\$46,057 26
By Advertising	Books—British Patents\$ 6,468 12 Books—British Patents\$ 229 00— Bonds Payable Binding	Fuel. Furniture Hall	Ice. Insurance. Interest	Lectures Lights Librarians	Hall Company. Newspapers	Periodicals. Printing	Petty Expenses	French Repaired	Transportation	Water Rates	Catalogues	John N. DyerRlank Rocks	Fine Arts.	Loan Exhibition	Balance	
\$ 387 81	330 00 650 00 2,327 50	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		$\frac{772}{}$ 16,618 40	13 10 40 00	301 20 336 25		1,150 00 4,000 00 17 40								\$46,057 26
RECEIPTS.  To Balance from last Account	₩		To Hall Account— Grand Hall\$ 3,670 00 Ante-rooms\$176 00	Hall Stores	To Lost Books.	Fines. Lectures	Bills Payable	Bonds Payable	Transportation							

### EXHIBIT "B"-BALANCE SHEET.

\$287,226	Bonds Payable 8,000 00 Mercantile Library Hall Company 4,523 56	\$322,084 78
	<b>-</b>	\$322,084 78

# EXHIBIT "C"-PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	Loan Exhibition. 255 85  Loan Exhibition in Value of Catalogues. 1,949 70  Balance—Net Gain this Year 2,285 28
	79I 72
	124
	81
	36 377
	1,432
	्। 915
	0.52,2
	1/4
	195
	Transportation 8504 68
	1,676
Beneficiaries	2,984
	To Blank Books. \$104 00
REDIT.	DEBIT.

### ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Members of the Mercantile Library Association:

Gentlemen:—In presenting to your notice the Thirty-first Annual Report of the St. Louis Mercantile Library Association, I beg to congratulate you on the substantial and continued prosperity of the past year.

The prevailing depression in business has not failed to affect the receipts of the association, but it has not impaired its usefulness in any one of the objects for which the association was established, while it has shown conclusively that a growth and progress, which have held their steady course under the trying circumstances of the past three years, may be confidently relied on under any circumstances. With ordinary good fortune and with judicious efforts, the St. Louis Mercantile Library ought, within a few years, to take a prominent place among the great libraries of the country, and that end should be steadily kept in view in its management.

### THE LIBRARY AND READING-ROOM.

The number of volumes added to the library during the past year is 2,570, making the total number at present in the library, 46,485.

This is not only greater than the ordinary rate of increase, but it represents an accession which surpasses in permanent value the accessions of any previous year in the history of the association. Our collection of books is believed by those best acquainted with it to be inferior in value to no other collection of equal size in the United States. It cannot pretend to vie in completeness with libraries containing

four or five times as many volumes, but it is singularly free from worthless rubbish, and its various departments are as complete as is compatible with the broad range of the demands made by its patrons. During the year we have taken advantage of some of the great auction sales of the eastern cities, and notably of the dispersion of the libraries of E. G. Squier and of S. G. Drake, and of the Menzies collection, to enrich the library with works of which the permanent value is attested by the rapidly increasing prices they command. Merely as an investment, our purchases at these sales were worth more than their cost within twenty-four hours after the sales were over.

The history of our country is a department which claims our special attention, and this department of the library has been largely added to. Among the purchases at the Menzies sale was a complete set, in eleven volumes, of the Bradford Club Publications; a complete set of Almon's Remembrancer, twenty-three volumes, a very rare collection of documents illustrating the Revolutionary War from the English side; Shea's "Cramoisy Series" of Jesuit missionary relations and other documents illustrating our early history, in twenty-one volumes; Alsop's Maryland; Carroll's Journal; Caldwell's Life of Greene; a rare volume of Memorials of John André, and other rare and valuable works, many of them with rare inserted plates, maps, and autographs, and all of them in perfect condition and beautifully bound. Other valuable works on American history, acquired during the year, are the Massachusetts Historical Society Collections, in forty-seven volumes, and its Transactions, in six volumes; French's Historical Collections of Louisiana, in five volumes; four volumes of Force's American Tracts; and in state and local history we have added very largely to our collection. The list embraces such works as Heywood's History of Tennessee, Ramsay's Annals of Tennessee, Slade's Vermont State Papers, McSherry's Maryland, Stevens' Georgia, White's Historical Collections of Georgia, White's Statistics of Georgia, Whiton's History of New Hampshire, Winthrop's New England, Barry's Massachusetts, Burk's very rare

and valuable history of Virginia, and the histories of Skelton Jones and Stith; Lawson's Carolina; the histories of California by Letts, Seyd, and Capron; Peterson's Rhode Island, McLeod's Wiskonsan, Wilder's Annals of Kansas, Phillips' Conquest of Kansas, Edwards' Life and Times (in Illinois), the histories of Pennsylvania and New Jersey by Carpenter and Arthur, and many others.

The accessions to the early and aboriginal history of America have also been very large, and may be said to raise this department of the library to the dignity of a collection. These accessions were purchased chiefly at the Squier and Drake sales, and include ten volumes of pamphlets on the ethnology and archæology of America, collected and arranged by Mr. Squier, and five volumes of different works by Squier. The copy of Catlin's O-Kee-Pa deserves special notice, and the works of Orbigny, Lafitau, Domenech, Brasseur de Bourbourg, Le Page Du Pratz, Las Casas, Priest, Rafinesque, Duponceau, and others, are indispensable to any library which pretends to make adequate recognition of the importance of American archæology. Many of them have been bought at unusually low prices.

Other notable additions to the library are the illustrated medical works, which were purchased at the request of some of our members in the medical profession; the Shakspeareana, to which some fifty volumes have been added, all of standard merit; some sixty volumes relating to the life and reign of Napoleon I., and a very valuable list of works from the government printing office. Among these are the Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office, the Official Army Register of the Volunteer Forces During the War, the Geological Survey of the Territories, the Geographical Survey West of the One Hundredth Meridian, Powell's Exploration of the Colorado River, and other works, besides those included under the head of public documents. We have also been constantly in receipt of the Patent Office Reports of Great Britain, and have enriched the law department with the authorities on patent law. Among the individual publications worthy of notice is the magnificent Description de l'Egypte, compiled during Napoleon's occupation of that country, and consisting of nine large quarto volumes of text and eleven elephant folio volumes of plates; the Botanique of Humboldt and Bonpland, Wornum's Turner Gallery, and other costly publications. These purchases have not prevented the library from adding the principal works of current literature, and we believe our members have every reason to be satisfied with the manner in which the resources of the library have been utilized to meet their wishes. Appended to this report will be found a list of the papers, magazines, and serials of the readingroom, which has been frequented by a constantly increasing number of members.

The number of visitor's tickets issued to non-residents, introduced by members of the association, is 678.

The number of	volumes	issued	from	the	:
library during	the year	is -	-	-	140,775
The number issue	ed last ye	ar, -	- <b>-</b>		139,250
Increase,		-	-	-	1,525

### MEMBERSHIPS.

The membership of the association at present is as follows:

Honorary members	s, -	-	-	-	-	18
Life members,	-	-	-	-	-	671
Proprietors, -	-	-	-	-	-	713
Clerks,	-	-	-	-	-	1,629
Beneficiaries, -	-	-	-	-	-	1,736
T-4-1						. =6=
Total, -	-	-	-	-	-	4,707

We have enrolled during the past year 519 members, and have lost 383 members, leaving a net gain of 126. While this showing is a satisfactory one under the circumstances, there is every reason to believe that if a concerted effort were made by the friends of the library, a large increase of members could be secured. The library is only partially dependent upon the receipts from memberships, but it is a

part of the purpose for which our trust was established to diffuse its benefits as widely as possible. The charter, the constitution, and the name of this association identify it with the mercantile classes of our city; and as they receive the credit of its success, they owe it to themselves to leave no proper effort untried to constantly extend and strengthen an institution of which St. Louis is so justly proud.

### CATALOGUE.

The supplement to the classified catalogue, of which the publication was commenced in April, was completed in August. It makes an octavo volume of 138 pages, and gives some 5,500 titles to the 4,500 volumes catalogued. It was made to conform in all respects to the classified catalogue of 1874, but it is the opinion of the librarian that a great many improvements are imperatively demanded in the system of cataloguing. Our catalogue is incomplete because it fails to give every production of every author under the author's name, and many of the classes have now grown so large as to need an index of subjects to guide the student. The classified catalogue, with its supplement and with the accessions continued in the card catalogue, is a vast improvement over the solitary interleaved copy of the catalogue of 1858, which represented all that the library had done in cataloguing in sixteen years; but a comparison with other libraries shows how much remains to be done before our valuable collection of books can be said to be catalogued. Under the most economic system of cataloguing, other libraries average from two to two and three-quarter titles to each volume. Had the catalogue of 1874 been completed up to such a standard, it would have contained from 80,000 to 110,000 titles instead of the 35,000 titles actually printed. While it would not be advisable, under the pressure of more important claims, to attempt such a catalogue, it would be neglecting an important feature of the library not to meet its constantly increasing requirements in this respect. This has been done during the past

year, and since the completion of the supplement some 8,000 titles have been placed in the card catalogue, of which about one-half represent new titles of former works, and the other half represent the more complete cataloguing of the 2,000 volumes added since the supplement was printed.

The sales of printed catalogues have been quite as small as those of other libraries which report the number of catalogues sold, but the catalogues placed in the library have been in constant use. It would be very unfair to measure the value of the catalogues by the sales, as they are useful chiefly in the library, and there they are indispensable. As it is not proposed to print any new supplements, it might be advisable to compile such a guide or hand-book to the library as should indicate the character of the new accessions, and supply the lack of notes to the printed catalogue.

### LECTURES.

Only one course of two lectures by Prof. John Fiske, of Harvard University, on "The Aryans," has been delivered under the auspices of your association. The conditions under which lecture lyceums came into existence in this country have entirely passed away, and it is only under exceptional circumstances that the association should hereafter be called on to make engagements for lectures.

### BUILDING.

The expenditures on the building have been unusually heavy. The principal item has been the cost of the iron shutters which have been placed on all the windows in the south wall, as a more effectual protection against fire. This involved an outlay of \$416, but it has increased the safety of our valuable property; and as it has enabled us to obtain a reduction of fifteen per cent. in the current rate of our insurance, it will be more than repaid within two years by the direct saving of expense.

### THE WAYMAN CROW SCHOLARSHIP.

Mr. Edward H. Engler continues to hold the Wayman Crow Scholarship in Washington University. We receive nothing but favorable reports of this endowment, which attests the generous interest felt by Mr. Crow in the library and in the university.

### ORGAN.

In compliance with a recommendation of our predecessors, we have contracted with the firm of Marshall Brothers, of Milwaukee, for an organ, to be erected in the Grand Hall, and the organ is now in position and will be ready for use in a few days. Its value is estimated at \$10,000, of which your association has subscribed \$2,000, and the organ is to remain the property of the association. While such an investment is not directly within the line of the objects contemplated by our charter, it will undoubtedly add to the receipts from hall rents sufficiently to justify the outlay.

### THE ART EXHIBITION.

During the month of December a loan exhibition of paintings, bronzes, and other works of art, was held in the vacant store in this building on Locust street. Although pecuniarily unsuccessful, the loss to the association will be very small, a partial guarantee having been given by the gentlemen whose influence succeeded in establishing the exhibition, and we have their assurance that the pecuniary loss is more than compensated for by the success of the exhibition in other ways. It was beyond question the finest collection of works of art ever seen in St. Louis, and it has fixed a standard and left an influence which will be felt in all future art exhibitions, and it is only proper to say that, although the time for preparation of the exhibition was too brief to advertise it properly before the public, and although the attendance during the earlier days was light,

the receipts during the last week proved conclusively that, with proper notice given in time, it would have been a great success pecuniarily, as it was in every other respect.

Your thanks are due to the friends of the library who kindly loaned their valuable paintings and articles of brica-brac for the exhibition.

### SHELF-ROOM.

During the year sixteen new book-cases have been built on the floor of the library, with shelf-room for 5,000 books. They were immediately filled; and though they greatly relieved the crowded condition of the book-cases, in some of which the books had been packed three deep, they did not entirely meet the demand for room. Three rows, containing twenty-seven book-cases, were subsequently built in the passage-way between the library and reading-room, eight half book-cases were placed on the balcony, and the two cabinets in the chess-room were pressed into service, making in all shelf-room for nearly 12,000 volumes, and yet we are not able to say that each book in the library has a place on the shelves. How much has been done to increase the facilities of finding books, and consequently to add to the convenience of the members of the library, will appear from the fact that in a single year we have provided additional room for nearly one-fourth of all the volumes that had been gathered in thirty years, yet the accessions of the year 1877 will come in without finding an inch of shelf-room, and the building of new cases would not only injure the appearance of the room, but would interfere with the comfort and convenience of those using it. There is nothing to do but to begin doubling up on the shelves, and hiding the old books behind the new ones. This is a serious inconvenience. books are ranged on the shelves in the order of the classes in the catalogue, and it is impossible to foresee what classes will receive the largest accessions. But, as a general rule, it will be the classes which are most popular, and in this way those cases will be most crowded which ought to be most accessible.

The demand for shelf-room is the most serious question which claims the attention of the association at this time. It is impossible to contemplate the ordinary growth of the library without realizing that the limit of piece-meal additions has been reached, and that the time has come for a new departure. We would recommend that during the coming year a committee of your body should be appointed to prepare a report, with plans and estimates, covering all the questions involved in moving the library into the Grand Hall and changing the present library-room into stores, or otherwise providing new quarters or additional library space.

### CONCLUSION.

It will be seen that during a year of exceptional dullness in all the interests on which the library depends, the association has not only continued its usual career, but has displayed unusual activity in every department, and has not hesitated to incur the heavy expenditures involved in such a While this course has been partly forced on us by the necessities of the library, it has for the first time in many years brought our expenditures to exceed our receipts. The association is abundantly able to stand the deficiency which has accrued, but the policy of consulting the convenience of the members rather than the resources of the association can be justified only as long as we have a reasonable expectation of meeting one year's deficiency with another year's surplus. In other cities and in other libraries a lively and generous interest has been excited, which is building up such institutions with unprecedented rapidity. There has never been a time when more attention was paid to library management, or a more general enthusiasm shown in all matters connected with their success and prosperity. At such a time St. Louis should not lag behind, and the directors who may have charge of the magnificent collection and endowment of the St. Louis Mercantile Library

Association hold their honorable office subject to the responsibility of always keeping the institution in the front rank of progress.

Your attention is again called to the efficiency of the services of your librarian, Mr. John N. Dyer. Your Board of Direction are indebted to him for numerous valuable suggestions, and for his unremitting efforts to facilitate them in their labors in every way. Your thanks are due to him for the interest he has exhibited in your affairs, and to his assistants for their energy and gentlemanly attention to patrons of the library.

EDWIN HARRISON,

President.

APPENDIX.



### LIST OF DONORS--1876.

### BOOKS.

Baker, W. E. S., Baxter, Dr. J. H., Benét, Gen'l S. V., Bogy, Hon. L. V., Brazilian Government, British Com'rs of Patents, Carr, Lucien, Clarke, R., & Co., Dillon, John A., Giverville, Countess de, Fish, Hon. Hamilton, Hammond, Dr. W. A., Harney, Gen'l W. S., Humphreys, Gen'l A. A., Hutchinson, R. R., Kehr, Hon. Edward C., Kærner, Hon. G., Lee, John, McCullagh, J. B.,

McNally, Dr. V., Morgan, Horace H., New York Board of Health, New York Produce Exch'ge, Priest, John G., Ramsey, Charles G., Reynolds, Hon. Thos. C., Rodney, Marion R. L., Simpson, Gen'l J. H., Smith, A., Soule, Thomas & Wentworth, Stone, Hon. Wm. H., Treat, Mrs. Samuel, United States-

Interior Department, Post-Office Department, State Department, Treasury Department, War Department.

### PAMPHLETS.

Astor Library, New York, Baltimore Mercantile Library, Boston Public Library, Brooklyn Mercantile Library, Chicago Public Library, Cincinnati Mercantile Library, San Francisco Mercantile Li-Cincinnati Public Library, New York Mercantile Library, Smithsonian Institute.

Philadelphia Library Co., Philadelphia Mercantile Library, Pittsburg Mercantile Library, St. Louis Pub. Sch'l Library, brary,

### LIST OF NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

### ON FILE IN THE READING-ROOM.

### NEWSPAPERS.

Daily Unless Otherwise Specified.

### AMERICAN.

					AN	IL.	RICAN.
Atlanta, -		_		_		-	Constitution.
Baltimore,	-		-		-		American and Commercial Advertiser.
Daltimana							
Baltimore, -							
Boston, -							
							Christian Register (weekly).
Boston, -	-		-		-		Post.
Brooklyn, -							O .
Carrollton,							
Chicago, -		-		-		-	Inter-Ocean.
Chicago,	-		-		-		Times.
Chicago, -							
Cincinnati,							
Cincinnati, -							
Cincinnati,	_		-		-		Gazette.
Davenport,		-		-		-	Gazette.
Denver, -	-		-		-		Rocky Mountain Herald (weekly).
Evansville, -		_		_		_	• •
Galveston,							
Indianapolis,		-		-		-	Journal.
							Journal of Commerce.
Kansas City,							
Lafavette (Co	.).		_		_		Sentinel (weekly).
							Home Journal (weekly).

### NEWSPAPERS—Continued.

Leavenworth, -Times. Lexington (Mo.), - - Intelligencer (weekly). Little Rock, - - -Arkansas Gazette. Louisville, - - - Courier-Journal.

Marshall (Co.), - - Times (weekly). Memphis, - - - Appeal. Memphis, - - -Avalanche. Milwaukee, - -- Sentinel. Mobile, -Register. Montgomery, - -- Advertiser. Montreal, - - Gazette. Montreal, - - - Herald and Daily Commercial Gazette. Nashville, - - -American. New Orleans, - - Picayune. New Orleans, - - -Times. New York, -- Courier des États Unis. - - Evening Post. New York, New York, - - Graphic. New York, - - -Herald. New York, - - - Home Journal (weekly). New York, - - - Journal of Commerce. New York, - -- Sun. New York. - - -Times. New York, - -- Tribune. New York, - - -World. Oakland, - - -- Transcript. Omaha, - - - -Herald. - North American and United Philadelphia, - -States Gazette. Philadelphia, -- Press. Philadelphia, - - -Times. Pittsburg, - - - Commercial. Pittsburg, - - -Gazette. Richmond, - - - Enquirer. Richmond, - - Dispatch. St. Charles, - - Cosmos (weekly).

### NEWSPAPERS—Continued.

St. Joseph, Gazette. St. Louis, -- Amerika. St. Louis, -Anzeiger des Westens. St. Louis, - - -- Comercio del Valle (monthly). St. Louis, - -- Dispatch. St. Louis, - - -- Globe-Democrat. St. Louis, - -- Herald (weekly). St. Louis, - - -- Journal. St. Louis, - - Republican. St. Louis, -- Republique (weekly). St. Louis, - -Times. St. Louis, - - -- Westliche Post. St. Paul, --Pioneer Press. San Francisco, - - - Alta California. San Francisco, -- Examiner (weekly). Santa Barbara, -- Index (weekly). Savannah, - -- Advertiser. Savannah, - - - Morning News. Springfield (Mass.), - - Republican.

Toronto, - - - Globe.

Washington, - - National Republican.

Washington, - - - Congressional Record.

Washington, - - - Union.

### FOREIGN.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

Belfast, - - - Northern Whig (weekly).

Dublin, - - - Express.

Dublin, - - - Freeman's Journal.

Edinburgh, - - Scotsman (weekly).

Glasgow, - - - Herald (weekly).

Liverpool, - - Mercury (weekly.

London, - - - Times.

London, - - Pall Mall Gazette.

### BELGIUM.

Brussels, - - - Independance Belge.

### NEWSPAPERS—Continued.

### FRANCE.

Paris, - - - - Charivari. Paris, - - - - Figaro.

Paris, - - - Journal des Debats.

Paris, - - - Temps.

### GERMANY.

Augsburg, - - - - Allgemeine Zeitung.
Cologne, - - - Kælnische Zeitung.

### PERIODICALS.

### WEEKLY.

Academy, Albion, American Architect and Building News, American Chemist, American Journal of Mining, Appleton's Journal, Arcadian, Architect, Army and Navy Journal, Blätter für Literarische Unterhaltung, Building News, Central Law Journal, Chemical News, Chronique des Arts, Church Times, Colman's Rural World, Commercial and Financial Chronicle, Country Gentleman, Cultivator, Cumberland Presbyterian, Economist,

Engineer, Engineering, Engineering and Mining Journal, Field, Fliegende Blätter, Forest and Stream, Fun, Gartenlaube, Gegenwart, Graphic (London), Harper's Bazar, Harper's Weekly, Illustrirte Zeitung, Illustrated London News, Independent, Iron, John Bull, Journal of Gas Lighting, Judy, Kladderadatsch, Ledger, Leslie's Illustr'd Newspaper, Leslie's Lady's Journal,

### PERIODICALS—Continued.

Littell's Living Age,
London Lancet,
Mining Journal,
Mines, Metals and Arts, and
Railroad Journal,
Monde Illustré,
Musical World,
Nation,
Nature,
Once a Week,
Public,
Punch,
Railroad Gazette,

Religio Philosophical Journal,
Rod and Gun,
Saturday Review,
Scientific American,
Spectator,
Sporting Gazette,
Sportsman,
South,
Turf, Field and Farm,
Ueber Land und Meer,
Western Watchman,
Westminster Papers,
Wilkes' Spirit of the Times.

### MONTHLY.

All the Year Round, American Builder, American Journal of Science and Arts, American Journal of Education, American Journal of Medical Sciences, American Law Register, American Law Review, American Medical Journal, American Meteorologist, American Naturalist, Annales des Ponts et Chaussées, Argosy, Art, Art Journal, Athenæum, Atlantic Monthly, Baily's Magazine, Banker's Magazine (London),

Banker's Magazine (N. Y.), Belgravia Magazine, Blackwood's Magazine, Builder, Cassell's Magazine, Catholic World, Chambers's Journal, Colburn's New Monthly Magazine, Colburn's United Service Magazine, Contemporary Review, Cornhill Magazine, Correspondant (semimonthly), Curtis's Botanical Magazine, Dublin University Magazine, Eclectic Magazine, Edinburgh Medical Journal, Floral Magazine, Fortnightly Review, Fraser's Magazine,

### PERIODICALS—Continued.

Galaxy, Gazette des Beaux-Arts, Gentleman's Magazine, Geographical Magazine, Godey's Lady's Book, Good Words, Harper's Magazine, Irving Union, Journal des Economistes, Journal of Chemical Society, Journal of Franklin Institute, Lippincott's Magazine, London, Edinburgh and Dublin Philosophical Magazine and Journal of Science, London Society, Macmillan's Magazine, Magazine of Natural History, Mechanic's Magazine, Medical Brief, Medical News and Library, Medical Record, Medical Times and Gazette, Missouri Dental Journal, Monthly Abstract of Medical Science, New England Historical and Genealogical Register,

New Remedies, New York Medical Journal, Notes and Queries, Patent Rights Gazette, Phrenological Journal, Polytechnisches Journal, Popular Science Monthly, Poultry, Mondes Revue des Deux (semi-monthly), St. Nicholas, St. James Magazine, Salon, Sanitarian, Scribner's Magazine, Spirit of Missions, Temple Bar, Tinsley's Magazine, Unitarian Review, Unsere Zeit, Van Nostrand's Engineering Magazine. Voice of Masonry, Ware's Valley Monthly, Western, Western Insurance Review, Wide Awake.

### QUARTERLY.

American Quarterly Church Review, Biblical Repertory and Princeton Review, Braithwaite's Retrospect (semi-annual),

British Journal of Homœopathy, British Quarterly Review, Christian Remembrancer, Dublin Review, Edinburgh Review,

### PERIODICALS—Continued.

International Review,
Journal of Actuaries and Assurance,
Journal of Speculative Philosophy,
New Quarterly Magazine,
North American Review (bimonthly),
Popular Science Review,
Presbyterian Quarterly and
Princeton Review,

Quarterly Journal of Geological Society (London),
Quarterly Journal of Mathematics,
Quarterly Journal of Psychological Medicine,
Quarterly Journal of Science,
Quarterly Review,
Southern Review,
Westminster Review.



